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Eighth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

**(This report covers the week from
6 April through 12 April 1973)**

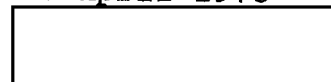
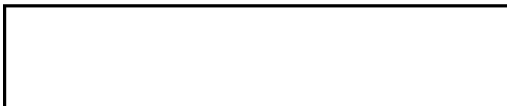
*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

DIA review(s) completed.

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13 April 1973



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Eighth Report

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS*

(This report covers the week from
6 April through 12 April 1973)

The Key Points

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- A high level of North Vietnamese logistic activity continued throughout the week. Once again, NVA logistic movements were particularly heavy in Quang Tri Province.
- The number of combat incidents initiated by the Communists remained at a moderate level in South Vietnam, but rose significantly in Laos.

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The Details

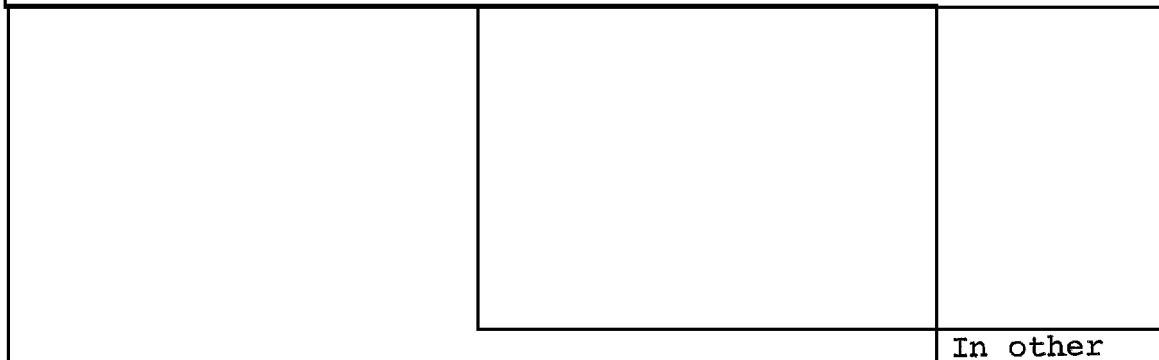
NOTE: This is the eighth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-instigated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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In other air defense developments, an additional North Vietnamese SA-2 site has been established near Khe Sanh during the past week. There are now a total of 10 SA-2 sites in the Khe Sanh area which have been constructed since the beginning of this year. Four of these were observed to be occupied as of 9 April.



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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies by the North Vietnamese in Violation of the Agreements

7. Heavy Communist logistic movements continued during the week in northern South Vietnam and throughout most of the Laos Panhandle. NVA vehicle activity in Quang Tri Province was even heavier than in the preceding several weeks, as the North Vietnamese continued to move supplies into forward areas.

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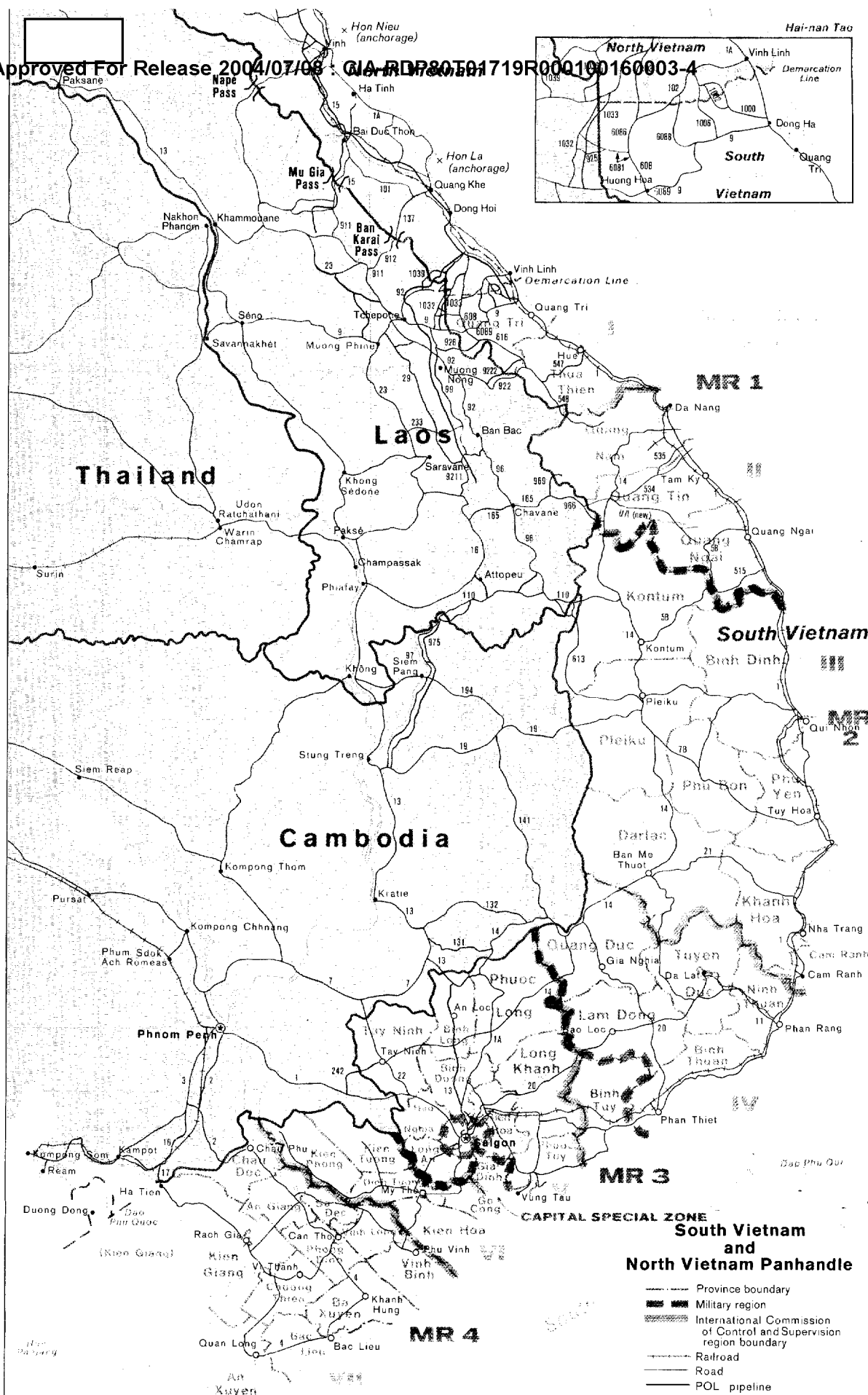
The most significant observations of NVA truck traffic in southern Laos were in the areas adjacent to Quang Tri Province and the A Shau Valley, but sizeable traffic flows were also noted in the Chavane area. Traffic moving southward through the Passes out of North Vietnam was slightly above the average weekly level in March. Heavy logistic activity was also observed during the week in the southern North Vietnam Panhandle.

8. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed inside South Vietnam during the reporting period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

(a) NVA vehicle activity was observed each day on Route 9 in northern Quang Tri Province, as follows:

(1) On 6 April, 29 cargo trucks were observed moving on the route between Dong Ha and the Laos/South

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Vietnam border (7 eastbound, 15 westbound, 7 parked).

- (2) On 7 April, 59 cargo vehicles were noted on Route 9 in the immediate vicinity of Khe Sanh (24 eastbound, 19 westbound, 16 parked).
 - (3) On 8 April, 85 cargo trucks were moving on the segment between Dong Ha and Khe Sanh (19 eastbound, 31 westbound, 35 parked).
 - (4) On 9 April, 98 cargo vehicles were noted between Dong Ha and the border (43 eastbound, 39 westbound, 16 parked).
 - (5) On 10 April, 63 cargo trucks were observed on the segment west of Dong Ha (20 westbound, 14 eastbound, 29 parked).
- (b) On 6 April, in the A Shau Valley region, 15 cargo trucks were observed on Route 548 southeast of Khe Sanh (9 southbound, 6 parked). There were also 11 trucks noted on this route on 8 April (7 southbound, 4 northbound).
 - (c) On 7 April, 21 cargo vehicles were observed on Route 6089 southeast of Khe Sanh (11 northbound, 6 southbound, 4 parked).
 - (d) On 8 and 9 April, 16 cargo vehicles were detected moving on Route 616 southeast of Khe Sanh. Two of the vehicles were southbound, 3 were northbound, and 11 were parked. Also on Route 616 in the same area, 11 cargo trucks and 31 57-mm AAA pieces were observed on 10 April parked along the road.

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- (e) On 8 April, on Route 1 in northeastern Quang Tri Province, 16 cargo vehicles and 41 buses were observed parked along the road north of Quang Tri City. In the same area, 9 cargo trucks (4 northbound, 1 southbound, 4 parked) were observed on 10 April, with 4 buses parked along the road.
- (f) On 9 April, 16 cargo trucks, 5 tanks, 1 APC and 6 field artillery pieces were seen parked along Route 547 southwest of Hue.
- (g) On 9 April, 21 cargo vehicles were seen on Route 922 traveling on the segment immediately inside the South Vietnam/Laos border. Sixteen of the vehicles were moving south, six of them towing light artillery pieces.
- (h) In the period 6 through 12 April, 130 southbound cargo vehicles were observed on Route 1033 in the western DMZ.
- (i) On 10 April, nine southbound cargo vehicles were observed on Route 1000 in the eastern DMZ.

9. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of the activity in the area probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- (a) The following activity was observed on Route 99 in the central portion of the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period:
 - (1) On 6 April, 50 cargo trucks were observed parked between Muong

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Nong and the intersection of Route 96.

- (2) On 7 April, 186 cargo vehicles were detected on the segment between Muong Nong and the Route 96 intersection (33 northbound, 50 southbound, 103 parked).
 - (3) On 8 April, 24 cargo trucks were traveling the route in the vicinity of Muong Nong (12 northbound, 6 southbound, 6 parked).
 - (4) On 9 April, 48 cargo trucks were on the highway between Muong Nong and the Route 96 intersection (25 northbound, 15 southbound, 8 parked).
 - (5) On 10 April, 21 cargo trucks (9 south, 2 north, 10 parked) and 1 bulldozer were observed moving north on Route 99 just south of Muong Nong. In addition, one APC was observed parked along the road in the same area.
- (b) On 6 April, 20 NVA cargo trucks were observed on Route 9222A near the Laos/South Vietnam border. Six of the vehicles were traveling south and were towing three 37-mm AAA weapons.
 - (c) On 6 April, 28 cargo trucks were observed on Route 966 east of Chavane, near the South Vietnam border (9 westbound, 11 eastbound, 8 parked). On 7 April, 43 cargo vehicles were observed in the same area (34 eastbound, 9 parked).
 - (d) On 6 April, on Route 9 west of the Laos/South Vietnam border, 9 cargo

trucks were seen parked. Ten west-bound trucks and 1 eastbound were seen in the same area on 7 April, and 5 eastbound and 1 parked on 8 April.

- (e) On 6 April, 18 cargo trucks were observed on Route 9211 southeast of Saravane, 11 moving south, 4 north, and 3 parked. On 8 April, 25 more trucks were observed (17 moving south, 6 north, and 2 parked).

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- (g) On 8 and 9 April, southwest of the Ban Karai Pass, 27 cargo vehicles were detected on Route 912 (10 north-bound, 17 parked). During the period 6 through 12 April, 322 vehicles were detected moving south and 323 traveling north through the Ban Karai Pass.

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C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
In South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

11. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 28 January and for the last week (6-12 April) are shown below:

Military Region	Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action		Last Week (6-12 Apr) Level of Action	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	721	2,546	34	91
MR 2	180	1,129	7	91
MR 3	252	1,610	24	121
MR 4	373	3,472	23	349
Totals	1,526	8,757	88 (121) <u>1/</u>	652 (597) <u>1/</u>

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

12. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

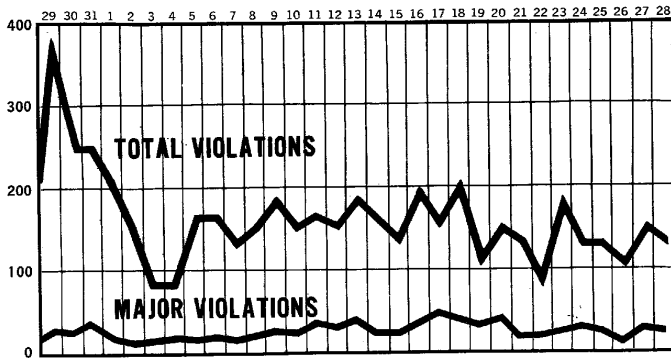
13. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" Communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.



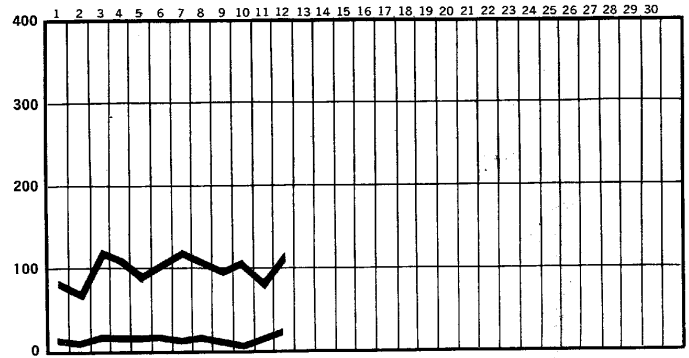
CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)

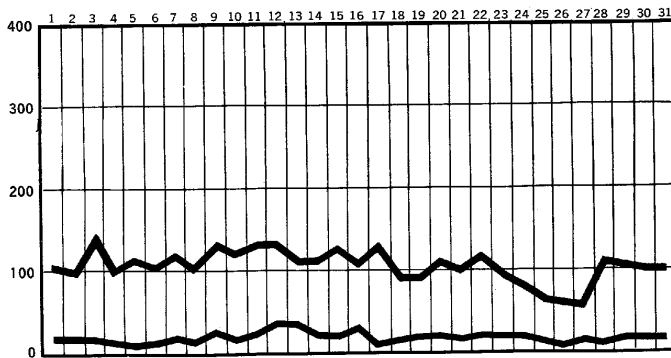
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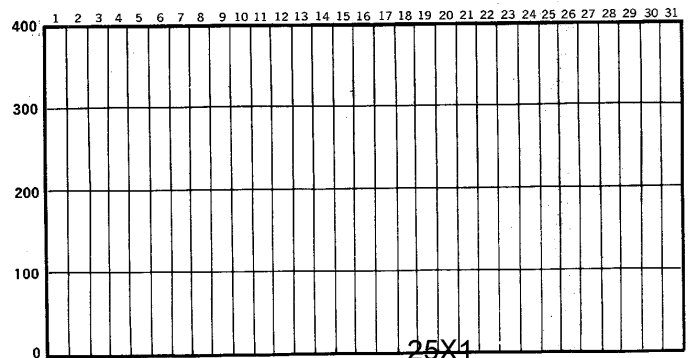
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MILITARY REGION 1

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MILITARY REGION 2

- (a) On 3 April, 15 miles southwest of Pleiku City, elements of an ARVN ranger border defense battalion received an enemy ground attack.
- (b) On 4 April, four miles south of Bong Son, elements of an ARVN ranger battalion received a ground attack by an enemy force.
- (c) On 8 April, an ARVN position 10 miles southwest of Kontum City was subjected to a ground attack.
- (d) On 9 April, four miles south of Bong Son, ARVN elements were subjected to an enemy ground attack.

MILITARY REGION 3

- (a) Nothing of significance to report.

MILITARY REGION 4

- (a) On 4 April, 15 miles northeast of Chau Doc, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion received a ground attack by an enemy force.
- (b) On 5 April, 11 miles northeast of Chau Doc, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion received a ground attack by an enemy force.

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- (c) On 8 April, three miles northwest of Vi Thanh, a VNAF helicopter was struck by enemy ground fire. The aircraft was forced to crash land and sustained heavy damage.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in Laos During the Week from 6 through 13 April

14. North Vietnamese Army forces launched heavy, sustained attacks during the week against Royal Lao Government units defending the Route 4 corridor south-east of the Plain of Jars in Laos Military Region II, forcing several Government units to begin withdrawing from the area. One NVA infantry regiment and supporting artillery and sapper units have been identified near Route 4 north of the village of Tha Vieng. There continues to be strong evidence that this NVA force is determined to eliminate the RLG presence in the area, thereby securing southeastern Xieng Khouang Province as Communist-held territory. A general lull in military activity prevailed throughout South Laos during the week.

15. Following is a brief account of significant combat incidents which occurred between 6 and 13 April, and which were clearly initiated by Communist forces in violation of the Laos ceasefire agreement:

- (a) On 6 April, no significant military activity occurred throughout Laos.
- (b) On 7 April, activity again was light throughout Laos, although there was an attack by an estimated two NVA companies against a Government defensive position south of Thakhek in MR III.
- (c) On 8 April, Communist forces launched coordinated attacks against six RLG positions near Route 4 southeast of the Plain of Jars. Defenders were driven from three of the positions.

Elsewhere in Laos, activity remained light and scattered.

- (d) On 9 April, Government troops were driven from another position south-east of the Plain.
- (e) On 10 April, Communist forces continued the ground shelling attacks against Government elements along Route 4.
- (f) On 11 April, Communist pressure intensified southeast of the PDJ. Over 1,000 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell on Government positions along Route 4 north of Tha Vieng village, and several Government units began withdrawing southward.
- (g) On 12 April, the NVA introduced tanks into the fighting along Route 4. Fire from two such vehicles near Tha Vieng prevented medical evacuation of friendly wounded, as the dislodged Government elements continued to withdraw slowly southward. The rest of the country remained generally quiet.
- (h) On 13 April, three government positions 16 to 18 km. northwest of Bouam Long were lost following an attack by an enemy force of unknown size supported by recoilles rifle fire.

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